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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 25 July 1997, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh)
(Vice-President)

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In the absence of Mr. Galuska (Czech Republic), Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

FOSTERING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT: FINANCIAL FLOWS, INCLUDING CAPITAL FLOWS; INVESTMENT; TRADE (agenda item 2) (continued)

Draft agreed conclusions by the President of the Council (E/1997/L.56)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft agreed conclusions entitled "Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows; investment; trade".

Mr. MCHUMO (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the wording of paragraph 6 of the text under consideration had been the subject of lengthy negotiation because of the argument as to whether democratization in international relations constituted an important element of an enabling environment for development. The Group of 77 and China were convinced that democratization in international relations was important in broadening and strengthening their effective and equitable participation in international decision-making processes. However, the qualifier introduced by some delegations to the effect that such democratization should be done in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law gave the impression that implementation of the Charter and international law was a static phenomenon, whereas it was in fact evolving. The Group of 77 and China would like to see such evolution to be taken into account.

Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba) said he fully shared the views expressed by the Tanzanian delegation and regretted that one delegation had insisted on defining democratization in international relations. In addition, paragraph 10 of the draft agreed conclusions indicated, in his opinion, that democracy and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms should be implemented in conformity with domestic law and national constitutions.

Mrs. LINDE (United States of America), referring to paragraph 21 of the draft agreed conclusions, said that the United States had never committed itself to the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA. It believed that national governments, not international donors, had primary responsibility for their country's development. Targets detracted from the

more important issues of the effectiveness and quality of aid and the policies of the recipient country. The United States, one of the largest aid donors, would continue to work with developing countries in support of their efforts.

Mr. NEBYENZIA (Russian Federation) said he did not want the impression to be created that only one delegation wished to define the concept of democratization of international relations. The Russian Federation would also wish to see such democratization proceed in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Mr. HYNES (Canada) said that Canada had agreed to go along with the consensus despite the considerable reservations it had with respect to the final text and the process that had led to its adoption. He regretted that the draft conclusions did not give a true reflection of the debate at the high-level segment, with respect for example to the Canadian statement on the role of the United Nations system in promoting an enabling environment for development. He suggested that at its resumed session the Council should start by discussing how to improve the functioning of its high-level segment.

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had in fact decided to look into the matter.

Mr. BENITEZ (Argentina) said that democratization was a very broad and complex concept that did not apply automatically or directly to international relations. A debate would be necessary to define its scope and intent; a better level of agreement would have been reached if the wording had been discussed before the high-level segment. He endorsed the stand taken by the Group of 77 and China, while welcoming that fact that it had been possible to reach consensus.

Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), referring to paragraph 42 of the draft agreed conclusions, said that the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries would test the capacities of the United Nations system and of the international financial bodies to reach agreement on consistent measures. The Council should express the wish that the Meeting would yield practical results.

Ms. SIELY (Australia) said she fully shared the view of the Canadian delegation that most of the useful discussion during the debate on the high-level segment had been lost when the conclusions were drafted. She welcomed the Bureau's decision to look into the matter and hoped that the next session of the Council would be more satisfactory in that respect.

Mr. AARDAL (Observer for Norway) strongly supported the position of the Canadian and Australian delegations.

The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft agreed conclusions set out in document E/1997/L.56.

It was so decided.

Mr. LOZANO ARREDONDO (Mexico) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft agreed conclusions although with a reservation in relation to the restriction placed on democratization in international relations, which Mexico considered should be universally applied.

INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS (agenda item 5) (continued)

Draft resolution entitled "Eradication of poverty" (E/1997/L.54)

Draft resolution E/1997/L.54 was adopted.

Draft decision entitled "Session of the Economic and Social Council in 1998 on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits" (E/1997/L.55)

Draft decision E/1997/L.55 was adopted.

Draft resolution entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits" (E/1997/L.57)

Draft resolution E/1997/L.57 was adopted.

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS (agenda item 6) (continued)

(b) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (continued)

Draft resolution entitled "Tobacco or health" (E/1997/L.34)

Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh) recalled that his delegation had, in association with the Tunisian delegation, submitted the draft resolution to the Council's consideration with a view to adoption. Although it had generally been acceptable to delegations, consensus had not been achieved, in particular with regard to the decision to establish a Special Tobacco Control Voluntary Trust Fund. Bangladesh therefore requested the Council to defer its decision on the draft resolution.

Mrs. KIZILDELI (Turkey) endorsed that proposal.

The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to defer its decision on draft resolution E/1997/L.34.

It was so decided.

(d) COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY (continued)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on possibilities of strengthening the coordination of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of energy within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (A/52/175-E/1997/75).

It was so decided.

(i) PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS (continued)

Draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of international years" (E/1997/L.32)

The PRESIDENT said he understood it to be the wish of the Council to defer action on the draft resolution to its resumed session.

It was so decided.

REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES (agenda item 7) (continued)

(a) ECONOMIC QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolution entitled "Renewal of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting" (E/1997/L.43)

The PRESIDENT reminded delegations that the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, had become a sponsor of the draft resolution. As a result of informal consultations, a revised "non-paper" had been prepared, which would be distributed to delegations.

The meeting was suspended at 11.55 a.m. and resumed at noon.

The PRESIDENT said that, as a result of informal consultations, it had been agreed that the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices should continue to meet in accordance with their agreed mandates and composition but within the overall limit of 10 expert meetings per annum, as provided for in paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development". They should retain their existing intergovernmental character and status. The two bodies would operate within the framework of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. A review of the functioning of the two bodies should be part of the special High-Level Review Meeting envisaged in the Midrand Declaration. The present statement would be issued as a Council document.

He suggested that the Council should take note of his statement and defer consideration of draft resolution E/1997/L.43.

It was so decided.

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/1997/31)

Draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development"

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution contained in chapter I, section A, of the report. As a result of informal consultations, the words "without prejudice to the ongoing review being undertaken on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 with regard to the subsidiary bodies of the Council" should be added; and in operative paragraph 7, the words "subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources" should be inserted after the words "to prepare a study".

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft decision I entitled "Election of the members of the Bureau other than the Chairman"

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decision I, contained in chapter I, part B, of the report. As a result of informal consultations, the words "without prejudice to the ongoing review being undertaken on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 with regard to the subsidiary bodies of the Council" should be added at the beginning of the draft decision.

Draft decision I, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft decision II entitled "Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Commission"

The PRESIDENT said that, as a result of informal consultations, the words "without prejudice to the ongoing review being undertaken on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 with regard to the subsidiary bodies of the Council" should be added at the beginning of the draft decision.

Draft decision II, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution entitled "Establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests" (E/1997/L.49)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution and to its programme budget implications as set out in document E/1997/L.59.

Mr. ASADI (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) read out the amendments proposed during informal consultations to take account of concerns over the implications which the establishment of the new body would have for the programme budget. The following should be added to the end of operative paragraph 1 "... which will report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session in 2000;". Secondly, operative paragraphs 3 and 4 should be replaced with the following paragraph: "3. Decides that the Forum at its first session will schedule its work programme, decide on the modalities of its work. including election and designation of office holders, and recommend to the Council the number, venue and duration of its substantive sessions, which could be up to two weeks each; and, recognizing the wide range of issues to be addressed, decides that the Forum may consider dividing its work between in-session working groups, on the understanding that no more than two working groups would meet simultaneously." The subsequent paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

Mrs. WALLER-HUNTER (Director, Division of Sustainable Development) said that the draft resolution, as amended, would have no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/1997/L.49, as orally revised, was adopted.

Mr. SCHUMACHER (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, and supported by Mr. HYNES (Canada), said that the European Union had joined in the consensus in order to ensure continued international dialogue. He recalled that identification of the various components of any international arrangement or mechanism, such as a binding legal instrument applicable to all types of forest, would, in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly at its recent special session, have to be an integral part of the work of the Forum during its substantive sessions.

Mr. NEBYENZIA (Russian Federation) endorsed the statement of the representative of Luxembourg. He regretted that the draft resolution had not been adopted in its original form. Since the programme budget had not yet been adopted, mention of financial implications appeared rather premature. He hoped that the Forum could begin substantive work at its October session.

Mr. CRUZ DE MELLO (Brazil) said he had had no reservations in accepting the text of the draft resolution and drew attention to the need in later work to consider in detail any questions arising from aspects of the Forum's programme of work.

Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) recalled that when the General Assembly had, at its special session, decided to establish an Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, it had been understood that the Forum would be funded by voluntary contributions. His delegation would maintain that position whenever the question of funding for the Forum came up in the future.

Draft resolution entitled "Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 and future methods of work of the Commission" (E/1997/L.50)

Mr. AARDAL (Observer for Norway) said that the issue of financial resources had been discussed extensively by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session. However, the present subject had not been substantially discussed and had been referred to the Council. In order to advance the issue of financing sustainable development, concrete action was needed. After consultation with other delegations at the current session, the Norwegian delegation had regrettably concluded that the proposal to establish an intergovernmental process, or to request the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider such action at its sixth session, was not widely supported. It believed, however, that establishing such a process with an appropriate mandate would facilitate the consideration of proposals from the expert group meetings and thus make an important contribution to promoting financing for sustainable development. It would continue, in collaboration with other interested delegations, to consider ways in which the issue could be given the attention it deserved. He asked that his statement should be duly noted.

Mrs. HAWKINS (Australia) said that at the General Assembly's special session, Australia, together with Canada, Japan, Norway and the United States, had expressed regret that no agreement had been reached to reflect the important role played by major groups in the area of trade and environment. The Rio Conference itself, Agenda 21 and the very important follow-up action to Agenda 21 owed much to the constructive and sustained efforts of such major groups. In her view, it was a pity, and something of a shame, that the document adopted by the General Assembly special session (E/1997/95) had not been addressed by the Council, to which it had been forwarded for consideration. She requested that her statement should be reflected in the Council's report.

Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) said he wholeheartedly endorsed the statement made by the observer for Norway. The pursuit of sustainable development, a goal shared by all, required all Governments to give greater attention to funding when drawing up policies. The conditions to be met in any exchange were to concentrate on the real issues, avoid sterile approaches, reach a genuinely useful outcome and avoid burdening the regular budget with additional requirements. The procedure proposed by Norway would have satisfied those four conditions. It would have led to a useful exchange of views on the part to be played by ODA under present conditions, which featured a massive influx of private capital and globalization of the economy. It would have allowed ways to be determined for channelling private investment in directions more likely to promote sustainable development, social equity, environmental protection and economic growth, and to overcome the obstacles to the flow of resources to sustainable development, in particular those relating to counter-productive subventions. Such issues were too important not to come under consideration in some manner in the near future, and the central role of the Commission on Sustainable Development required it to be very well informed on financial issues. He also supported the remarks of the representative of Australia regarding the role of the major groups in the area of trade and environment. It was regrettable that delegations had been unable to agree, at the General Assembly's special session, on a text in which that role could be mentioned.

The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1997/L.50.

Draft resolution E/1997/L.50 was adopted.

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (E/1997/29)

Mr. ADAWA (Observer for Kenya) welcomed the adoption by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its nineteenth session of the Nairobi Declaration reaffirming the role and mandate of UNEP as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment. The establishment of a high level committee as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council would play a central role in strengthening the operational activities of UNEP and facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for the purpose. As host country to both UNEP and Habitat, Kenya was concerned that the two programmes were continuing to suffer from inadequate funding and

under-utilization of capacity despite their enormous potential. The Secretary-General was certainly right as part of his reform programme to develop, in consultation with Governments and respective executive directors, new measures for strengthening and restructuring UNEP and Habitat.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take note of the following documents: the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (E/1997/29), the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly on an overall review of the implementation of Agenda 21 (A/S-19/14-E/1997/60), the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/1997/35), the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on trade and environmental matters (A/S-19/4-E/1997/13 and Add.1), the extract from the report of the Commission on Human Settlements (E/1997/L.26), the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/177 on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/52/181-E/1997/77), the extract from the report of the Governing Council of UNEP (E/1997/L.25), the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1997/16), the report of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth Asia and Pacific Regional Cartographic Conference (E/1997/52), the report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/1997/82), and the report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth Meeting of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development (E/1997/86).

It was so decided.

(c) SOCIAL QUESTIONS (continued)

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fortieth session (E/1997/28-E/CN.7/1997/12)

Draft resolution IV entitled "Working languages of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East"

The PRESIDENT said he had been informed by the Secretariat that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution IV.

Draft resolution IV was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 7.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (agenda item 9) (continued)

Draft resolution on the above subject (E/1997/L.48)

The PRESIDENT announced that China, Namibia, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland and Tunisia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

At the request of the representative of the United States, a vote was taken by roll-call.

The Netherlands, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda. *

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 28 votes to none, with 18 abstentions.

Mr. WINNICK (United States of America), speaking in explanation of his delegation's abstention from the vote, said that the United States recognized the responsibilities the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations in the economic, social, cultural,

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* The Zambian delegation subsequently informed the Secrtariat that, had it been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution E/1997/L.48.

educational, scientific, health and related fields, including to non-self-governing territories, where such agencies and organizations faced a particular challenge. He would have supported a resolution which recognized those simple facts, but the resolution adopted unnecessarily linked the work of the specialized agencies and other organizations to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Mr. NEBYENZIA (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had abstained from the vote because in its view agenda item 9 should not have been included in the Council's agenda. The issue came under the jurisdiction of other United Nations bodies.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 9.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES (agenda item 11) (continued)

Draft resolution entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" (E/1997/L.52)

Mr. HASSAN (Jordan) said that, following informal consultations with a number of delegations, the sponsors of the draft resolution had decided to amend it in a number of respects.

After the fourth preambular paragraph, new fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs should be added to read:

"Stressing the importance of the revival of the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 of 22 November 1967, 338 of 22 October 1973 and 425 of 19 March 1978, and the principles of lasting peace and the full and timely implementation of the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representatives of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of people under foreign occupation over their natural resources,".

The seventh preambular paragraph should be amended to read:

"Convinced that Israeli occupation impedes efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan,".

The eighth preambular paragraph should be amended to read:

"Gravely concerned about the deterioration of economic and living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan, and the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of their natural resources,".

In the final preambular paragraph, the words "prerequisite for promoting" should be replaced by "key element of lasting".

Operative paragraph 3 should now read:

"Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its measures against the Palestinian people, in particular, the closure of the occupied Palestinian territory, the enforced isolation of Palestinian towns, the destruction of homes and the isolation of Jerusalem;".

The beginning of operative paragraph 8 should be revised to read:

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session through the Economic and Social Council a report on the implementation of the present resolution ...", and the beginning of operative paragraph 9 should be: "Decides to include this item in the agenda of its substantive session of 1998, henceforth to be entitled ...".

Mr. COHEN (Observer for Israel) said that the Council was about to vote on a draft resolution on an item that was irrelevant to its work. The draft resolution was another element in the political warfare which the Palestinians and certain Arab States had stepped up recently against Israel. It was also a sign of the increasing politicization of the Council, which was to be regretted. It was, moreover, an attempt to influence the outcome of the final phase of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, and as such ran counter to the undertakings to which the Palestinians had committed themselves in their agreements with Israel.

Members of the Council should vote against the draft resolution in order to preserve both the integrity of the peace process and their own impartiality in that regard. The draft took a highly partisan approach detached from reality. Indeed, from the text it would appear that the whole of Jerusalem was

occupied Palestinian territory. Furthermore, it made countless demands of Israel, but none of the Palestinians. The draft resolution would not advance the peace process; it could only move it back.

He would also point out that, contrary to the claims made by the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic the day before, the Israeli Parliament had not recently adopted legislation affecting the Golan Heights.

Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) said that the United States Government would continue to oppose all draft resolutions that stated or implied Arab or Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and territories that were the subject of direct negotiation between the parties to the conflict in the Middle East. His delegation reiterated its firm opposition to the sentiments expressed in Council resolution 1996/40 concerning natural resources in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan. Again, such resolutions attempted to prejudge the outcome of issues that could be determined only by direct negotiations between the parties concerned.

The United States delegation agreed with the idea expressed in operative paragraph 6 on the importance of the work of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations and of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories under the auspices of the Secretary-General. With reference to operative paragraph 7, he recalled that the United States had made efforts to encourage foreign investment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and agreed that private investment was essential to improve the living standards of the Palestinian people. Despite those positive elements, however, the draft resolution contained language on sovereignty issues that was unacceptable. In the interests of moving the peace process forward, the Council should be encouraging direct exchanges between the parties rather than undermining them.

At the request of the representative of the United States, a vote was taken by roll-call on draft resolution E/1997/L.52, as orally amended by Jordan.

Sri Lanka, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nicaragua,

Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against: United States of America.

Abstentions: Australia, Romania.

Draft resolution E/1997/L.52, as orally amended, was adopted by 43 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. BAHAMONDES (Canada) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it reflected the importance that Canada attached to the social and economic development needs of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. His delegation was pleased to note that the resolution had been firmly placed in the context of the Middle East peace process; Canada, as a long-standing supporter of that process, was persuaded that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace could only be achieved in the region through direct negotiations and genuine dialogue between the parties. However, Canada acknowledged the legitimate security concerns of Israel and its legitimate rights to well-being and as an independent State.

Mr. NEBYENZIA (Russian Federation) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, the matter was clearly outside the purview of the Council and would, regrettably, serve only to politicize its deliberations. The issues raised by the content of the resolution clearly had to be resolved in the context of the peace process under way in the Middle East.

Mr. JILANI (Observer for Palestine) said he wished to express his thanks to all those who had voted in favour of the resolution. The respect due to international law and to Security Council resolutions was in no way incompatible with an inquiry into the lot of the occupied Palestinian territories and a concern for ensuring better conditions of life for their people. Whenever Israel tried to alter the status of those territories, its efforts must be considered null and void and a violation of international law.

That should also be the attitude to the latest decision of the Israeli Government, taken on 24 July 1997, with a view to authorizing the construction of new homes for Israelis in the heart of the Arab quarter of Jerusalem.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan (A/52/171-E/1997/71).

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 11.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/227 (agenda item 12) (continued)

Draft decision entitled "Review of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council" (E/1997/L.58)

The PRESIDENT said that in operative paragraph 3 the words "this summary" should be replaced by "this document".

Draft decision E/1997/L.58, as orally amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT read out the following draft decision prepared as a result of informal consultations:

"The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To continue consideration of this item at its resumed session;

(b) To request the Bureau to come up with suggestions regarding action on the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report E/1997/68;

(c) To consider the item on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 at an early date of the programme of work in future substantive sessions;

(d) To request the Secretary-General to provide it with a briefing after each of its sessions on relevant issues, beginning in November 1997."

The draft decision read out by the President was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that agenda item 12 would remain open for consideration at the Council's resumed session.

Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba) said he had joined in the consensus on the draft decision read out, but hoped that in future oral presentation of draft decisions would be an exception.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (agenda item 13) (continued)

Draft decision entitled "Participation of non-governmental organizations in the General Assembly" (E/1997/L.51)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider a draft decision arrived at after informal consultations, which read:

"The Economic and Social Council decides to defer consideration of draft resolution E/1997/L.51 to its resumed session with a view to contributing to the deliberations of the General Assembly on this issue at its fifty-second session."

Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba) asked under what conditions the draft decision had been prepared, since his delegation, which had taken part in the informal consultations, had been unaware of it.

The PRESIDENT said that the text had been submitted by a number of interested delegations.

Mr. PRENDERGAST (Jamaica) proposed that the draft decision should be amended to read:

"The Economic and Social Council decides to defer consideration of the draft resolution contained in document E/1997/L.51 pending the outcome of the deliberations on this issue at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly."

Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines) and Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba) endorsed the Jamaican proposal.

Mrs. KRISHNA (India) expressed her surprise that the draft decision read out by the President contained none of the points of compromise that had concluded the informal consultations on the issue. She endorsed the Jamaican amendment.

Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) said that the wording proposed by the Jamaican delegation was not an amendment but simply replaced draft resolution E/1997/L.51. The United States delegation, for its part, proposed to keep the matter under informal consultation with a view to arriving at a consensus.

Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) endorsed the proposal put forward by the Jamaican delegation and expressed the hope that the Council would take an immediate decision on the matter.

Mr. HYNES (Canada) endorsed the proposal made by the United States delegation. It would be advisable to submit the Jamaican proposal to informal consultations in order to allow it to be considered at leisure.

Following a procedural discussion, the PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should proceed to informal consultations on the various proposals tabled and reconsider the matter at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.